



City of Arts & Innovation

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City of Riverside Works With State Agency Toward Resolution of Contamination Debate

Public hearing on June 16 delayed while city works with state oversight agency in its study

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – A public hearing on whether to create a community facilities district for the proposed Arroyo Park development has been delayed while the City of Riverside works with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) as it investigates complaints of tainted soil on the site.

The developer of the Arroyo Park development would like to use a community facilities district to finance various public improvements like streets, roads and sewers through the sale of tax-exempt bonds. The bonds would be paid back as homes are sold in the development. A hearing on the proposal had been scheduled for Tuesday, June 16.

The Arroyo Park property, often described as “Ag Park” due to its agricultural history, has been the topic of debate in Riverside for several months. Residents blame the property, near Van Buren Boulevard and Jurupa Avenue, for a variety of physical ailments they say have been caused by contaminated soil, although DTSC cleared the property for development.

However, DTSC has committed to reviewing its April 2014 clearance letter for the property in light of continued concerns. Barbara Lee, Director of DTSC, will bring her team to Riverside within the next two weeks to meet with City staff and lay out DTSC’s next steps in its review.

“The City is eager to assist DTSC in making its final determination on Ag Park,” said City Manager John Russo. “We look forward to working with Director Lee and her team.”